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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Report of the expert group meeting on a long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990, invited "Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the agenda for action until the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and beyond and the preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond".

2. It further requested the Secretary-General to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010 and of responding more appropriately to the many requests for assistance and advisory services.

3. Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/9 of 30 May 1991, recommended that a meeting of experts be held in conjunction with the conference entitled "Independence '92", with the primary objective of drawing up a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond. It further requested the Commission for Social Development to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action", and to discuss under that item a long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade.

4. The final report of an expert group meeting convened at Vancouver, Canada from 25 to 29 April 1992 in response to the above-mentioned Council resolution is annexed to the present note.

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Annex

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON A LONG-TERM STRATEGY TO FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

VANCOUVER, CANADA, 25-29 APRIL 1992

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Expert Group Meeting on a Long-Term Strategy to Further the Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond was held at Vancouver from 25 to 29 April 1992. It was hosted by the Government of Canada following "Independence '92", the International Congress and Exposition on Disability, organized at the same venue from 22 to 25 April 1992.

2. The World Programme of Action, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, embodied the guiding principles governing activities undertaken in the context of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) and beyond. The major achievements of the Decade included increased knowledge and global awareness of disability issues and the development of organizations of disabled persons.

3. In the 1987 mid-term analysis of the progress of the Decade the need for a long-term strategy to strengthen and further the advancement of disabled persons in all aspects of life - political, social, cultural and economic - was underlined. At a meeting of experts convened at Järvenpää, Finland, from 7 to 11 May 1990, 1/ to examine the implications of alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade, it was agreed that the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons was of fundamental importance and should be given top priority in the formulation of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond. Its recommendations provided the basis for a preliminary outline of such a strategy, the theme of which - a society for all - was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990, with special emphasis on the needs of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

4. The announcement by the Government of Canada that it would host an expert group meeting to draw up a long-term strategy was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/96 of 16 December 1991.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Public Affairs, who stated that the challenge ahead was to accord disability issues the highest possible priority in development planning and to generate the financial and political commitment necessary to ensure greater progress in future.

6. Speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General he noted the great increase in knowledge of disability during the Decade. For the first time in history, the concerns of disabled persons were appearing on the political agenda. The last year of the Decade should thus be used to put into practice the lessons of the past, and to complete the transition from awareness into action.

7. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons stressed the need for more realistic and concrete long-term strategies and national legislative policies facilitating access to technical and assistive devices by all persons who were disabled.

8. Projects directly beneficial to persons with disabilities in developing countries should be more vigorously pursued, and appropriate government standards and policies should be established to accommodate the special needs of ageing and disabled persons. Through their appropriate organizations, persons with disabilities must be part of the decision-making process.

9. The Officer-in-Charge of the Disabled Persons Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, noted that the responsibility of society was to ensure that everyone, including people with disabilities, could make full use of his or her potential. The World Programme of Action embodied specific objectives in the areas of disability prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The purpose of a long-term strategy was to provide a basis for and ensure the implementation of action-oriented programmes at the national, regional and local levels.

10. The Secretary of State and Minister Responsible for the Status of Disabled Persons in the Government of Canada noted the particular significance of the Meeting for disabled people worldwide. It was important for Governments to collaborate closely with persons with disabilities to find solutions to their concerns. Initiatives must be taken to achieve full and equal participation of all members of society.

11. Special thanks were extended to the Government of Finland for its support during the preparation of the Meeting.

B. Attendance

12. The Meeting was attended by 11 experts, participating in their individual capacities, by representatives of Secretariat units, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and by various non-governmental organizations (see appendix).

C. Election of officers

13. The following officers were elected:

Chairperson:	Henry Enns (Canada)
Vice-Chairperson:	Moses Masemene (Lesotho)
Rapporteur:	Ann-Marit Saebones (Norway)

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of agenda and organization of work.
3. Presentation of the discussion paper and the framework of the strategy.
4. Establishment of drafting groups.
5. Hearings.
6. Discussions on concrete activities within priority themes.
7. Adoption of the draft long-term strategy and closing of the meeting.

E. Establishment of drafting groups

15. Three drafting groups were set up to deal with recommendations on the preamble to the long-term strategy, planning and monitoring.

F. Documentation

16. The Meeting had before it a background paper entitled "Discussion paper on a long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond: towards a society for all - from awareness to action".

G. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

17. The Meeting adopted its report on 29 April 1992.

II. SUMMARY OF THE HEARINGS

18. In its consideration of agenda item 5, "Hearings", the Meeting requested a number of organizations and individuals to present their views and concrete proposals, which were to be considered by the Meeting. This represented a unique opportunity for wider participation and involvement in formulating the strategy.

19. The views expressed in presentations by organizations of disabled persons at the local, national and international levels are summarized below.

20. A more precise definition of disability was needed to reflect the crucial role and impact of the environment on disability. A conceptual framework should be adopted, clearly identifying opportunity inequities as the product of interaction between the individual impairments or disabilities and barriers raised by social and physical environments.

21. Stress was laid on the need for active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations at all levels of the decision-making process. In designing development programmes aimed at disabled persons, it was essential to have a thorough understanding of their day-to-day lives and special needs.

22. Several participants expressed concern about accessible housing and transportation, rehabilitation and prevention, employment and economic independence. It was proposed that particular attention be paid to the needs of children, women, the elderly, people with leprosy, mental illness and mental retardation, as well as the visually disabled and hearing- and mobility-impaired persons.

23. It was noted that besides providing for basic needs, technical devices should be made available to people with disabilities, to enable them to fully participate in society.

24. Several organizations spoke about the need to enhance the "independent living" movement in developing countries, as well as the need for a national action plan and appropriate legislation for disabled persons. They identified the process of empowerment as the basis of achieving independent living, while using community-based resources.

25. Apart from the topic of legislation and enforcement, the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons was cited by many participants as an example of an instrument that, when finalized, would carry a powerful moral obligation in the shape of guidelines for Governments in formulating their national plans. A progress report on the elaboration of the standard rules was presented by the chairperson and the consultant of the ad hoc working group charged with that task.

26. The importance of designing effective monitoring instruments at local, national and international levels was stressed. Equally important was the active involvement of organizations of disabled persons in the monitoring process.

27. The following two main priorities were identified: by 1995, all countries should recognize the organizations for disabled persons as the first true advocates of persons with disabilities; and by the year 2000, all countries should have a precise national strategy on the integration of disabled persons into mainstream society.

28. It was stressed that the economic, political and social distinctiveness of each country and region should be taken into consideration in devising a long-term strategy.

29. Sufficient allocation of human, material and financial resources was essential for efficient implementation and monitoring of the standard rules.

30. Various organizations pleaded for the need to carry out integrated educational programmes, in both the formal and the non-formal education system.

31. An intractable problem, particularly in developing countries, was the difficulty of convincing agencies and organizations of the importance of cooperation and coordination in disability programmes. It was suggested that coordinating mechanisms might therefore be established or strengthened and clear policy objectives formulated.

32. Many organizations based in developing countries argued that the role of disabled persons' organizations needed to be reviewed. Their contribution to decision making and the planning and monitoring of projects was invaluable and needed encouragement. It was widely felt that Governments should facilitate the establishment and strengthening of such organizations, using available resources from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons or by setting up a special fund.

33. The importance of making any planning process function within the context of human rights, self-determination and empowerment was also emphasized.

III. THE STRATEGY

A. Preamble

34. The Meeting strongly reaffirms the validity of the World Programme of Action and its main components, prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities, and recognizes the recommendations of the previous United Nations Expert Group Meetings held in Sweden in 1987 and in Finland in 1990.

35. The Meeting recognizes that while there have been many achievements, the main objectives of the Decade have not been fully attained. There are still in the world devastating violations of human rights of persons with disabilities and many barriers to their full, equal and active participation in society.

36. The Decade, however, witnessed the beginning of revolutionary change in the world's ability to control causes of impairment. However, the incidence of disability is still on the increase owing to the ageing of the population, environmental factors, malnutrition, disease, wars, civil strife and worsening economic and social conditions.

37. In many developing countries, where 80 per cent of the disabled population live, people with disabilities have no access to the basic necessities of life and little or no access to medical services, rehabilitation, education, training, employment, shelter and technical aids.

38. Worldwide, people with disabilities still face attitudinal and environmental barriers that prevent their full, equal and active participation in society. The consequences of disabling conditions are particularly damaging for women, children, elderly people, psychiatrically disabled persons and refugees. For many children, the presence of an impairment leads to rejection and isolation. Disabled refugees find the door to resettlement shut in many countries. People with mental disabilities, without access to communication, and people with multiple disabilities experience particular discrimination.

39. The international context in which problems of persons with disabilities are being addressed is continuously changing. During the Decade, there has been an increase in democratization worldwide, accompanied by important technological progress and global communication, providing new opportunities to prevent impairment and control disabilities and to enhance the participation of disabled people in society.

40. One of the main achievements of the Decade has been the development of organizations of disabled persons and their empowerment, leading to self-determination, greater independence and more active participation in society. The rights of disabled persons as full citizens have been universally acknowledged. One of the realities that has emerged is the redefinition of disabled people by themselves, placing greater emphasis on the barriers created by social, ecological and environmental factors, which limit their participation in society. It is therefore the view of disabled persons that the handicap is created by society.

41. There now exists new opportunities for partnerships with organizations of disabled persons to plan, implement and monitor comprehensive policies for equalization of opportunities. These opportunities should be encompassed within the global strategies of the greater society, such as sustainable development, technical cooperation, the promotion of human rights, the promotion of literacy, cooperation to reduce environmental pollution, and initiatives to promote peace and reduce hunger and malnutrition. It is in this context that the problems of disabled persons should be articulated and ultimately resolved.

42. The Meeting agrees on the importance of the following priorities, set by the General Assembly of the United Nations during the United Nations Decade of

Disabled Persons (1983-1992), and affirmed by a wide range of organizations during the Meeting, and that they should be addressed in the long-term strategy:

(a) Promotion and protection of human rights;

(b) Promotion of community-based rehabilitation;

(c) Development of independent living;

(d) Enhancement of economic equality and independence;

(e) Legislation, coordination and governing mechanisms as main instruments for improving the status of disabled persons.

43. In order to achieve a society of which disabled persons are an integral part, the principle of equal participation, access to opportunity and the rights of persons with disabilities must be fully recognized. It is also essential that the political, social and economic distinctiveness of each country and each region of the world be recognized.

B. Objectives of the strategy

44. The main objective of the strategy is to create a "Society for all", and to remove barriers that prevent disabled people from actively and fully participating in the sociocultural, political and economic development of their countries and societies. In this "Society for all", people with disabilities should be a natural and integral part and shall have the opportunity, in the interest of the whole society, to contribute their experience, talents and capabilities.

45. The strategy is designed to increase the capacity of Member States, United Nations bodies and organizations, and governmental and non-governmental organizations to adequately address the issue of disability and to encourage them to develop strategic action plans and to establish permanent planning and monitoring mechanisms for implementing the World Programme of Action.

46. To achieve the overall objective, specific targets have to be set, with a time-frame for effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms established at all levels.

47. The strategy is also designed to further strengthen those processes that have proved successful and sustainable in the course of the Decade. These include: integration; involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations; effective coordination; development of universal norms and standards; and the building of new partnerships.

C. Role of organizations of disabled persons

48. Organizations of disabled persons have been the major vehicle of change during the Decade. In recognition of this fact, Governments and international agencies must acknowledge the right of disabled persons to speak for themselves. In cooperation with and with the active involvement of organizations of disabled persons, Governments should outline a strategy for the development and strengthening of these organizations.

1. National level

49. In accordance with the recommendations of the World Programme of Action and of previous expert group meetings, Governments should, within two years of the adoption of this report, invite all organizations of disabled persons to participate in a national forum to plan the implementation of this strategy.

50. The mechanism for facilitating the work of the organizations of disabled persons should be incorporated in national plans and in regular government budget processes.

51. In order to speak with one voice before the decision-making organs, individual organizations of disabled persons should be encouraged to become involved in cooperative bodies.

52. Since active, well-organized national coordinating committees have proved so valuable in ensuring progress at the national level, they should be established henceforth as permanent structures. These committees, which should be established in every country within five years of the adoption of this report, should have influential representation from organizations of disabled persons. A national coordinating committee could coordinate, review and monitor the implementation of the national plan on disability and review all disability-related policies. The committee should be directly responsible to the head of Government.

2. Regional and international level

53. The United Nations inter-agency meetings on disability have been effective in developing and promoting intersectoral understanding and cooperation. This process should be strengthened, extended for a further ten-year period, and increasingly involve organizations of disabled persons.

54. Disability issues should be integrated into the mainstream activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Within two years of the adoption of this report, United Nations organizations and bodies and other international agencies should develop and implement planning mechanisms to permit organizations of disabled persons to play a greater role in project planning, decision-making and monitoring, thereby ensuring continuity of information and sharing of expertise.

55. This would involve the following: conducting research on disability-related issues; consultation, planning and monitoring of joint field activities and operations; and promotion of active employment policies for disabled persons within the United Nations system.

56. Disability-related issues should be given due consideration in the activities relating to the International Year of the Family, to be held in 1994, the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Develoment, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna in June 1993, the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held at Beijing in 1995, and all other global United Nations events. The concerned agencies should request organizations of disabled persons to provide the necessary direction to that end.

57. The Forum for International Parliamentarians should be encouraged to place on its agenda the issues contained in the World Programme of Action.

58. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has proved a valuable means of supporting low-cost, innovative and creative activities for organizations of disabled persons. As it is now practically depleted, a special appeal should be launched to revive and strengthen it.

59. Regional consultations and planning have proved useful in addressing the variety of activities required at the national level, as well as providing an effective means of exchanging experience and expertise, and promoting intergovernmental cooperation, planning and monitoring.

60. To ensure that programmes have effectively addressed the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities, it is proposed that a meeting at the ministerial level be convened by 1995.

61. To enhance cooperation with regard to sharing information and outlining conditions affecting life for all in the region, and to more effectively address disability-related matters at the regional level, regional commissions of the United Nations should, within two years of the adoption of this report, develop the mechanism for, and within five years implement, a more participatory role for organizations of disabled persons in the regional project-planning and monitoring process.

D. Planning

62. Integrated short- and long-term policies on disability issues should be developed at international, regional and national levels, preferably within the framework of existing planning mechanisms. To achieve the goal of full integration of persons with disabilities and the inclusion of disability issues into general policies, it will be necessary to coordinate both the long-term strategies and short-term action plans at all levels.

1. National level

63. Because the situation of disabled persons tends to vary from country to country, priorities are best addressed at the level of national planning. Having a national plan also ensures that external funding is in line with national priorities.

64. National plans should particularly take into account those priorities identified by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

65. It is important to include all government ministries in developing, implementing and monitoring the national plan. A single ministry, ideally at the highest level, should be responsible for coordination.

66. A good national plan should include the following:

(a) Emphasis on the concept that disability involves interactions between individuals and the physical, economic and sociocultural environment, with due regard to the need for appropriate changes to be made at the environmental level;

(b) Specific measures for the integration of disabled persons into mainstream society and the consequent integration of disability issues into the planning process of all sectors;

(c) Clear and feasible priority-setting for the short, medium and long term;

(d) Indication of the division of responsibilities among the Government, the private sector and the non-governmental sector;

(e) Provision for the review of all legislation and regulations, as well as for the monitoring and enforcement of policies (preferably by legislation);

(f) Identification and allocation of resources for the improvement of the well-being of disabled people, both within the regular budgets and through technical cooperation;

(g) Mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, share and publish results of progress in the implementation of the strategy;

(h) Guidelines for the inclusion of organizations of disabled persons in planning, monitoring and evaluation.

67. The United Nations, in cooperation with some 60 Member States, is currently preparing standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. When adopted, these rules should serve as an effective tool for Governments in developing and monitoring their national plans.

68. All human rights conventions and related instruments should be applied in the development of national plans.

69. Governments should develop the mechanisms for the planning process on adoption of this report. By 1994, all Member States should have a clearly articulated strategy.

70. National plans should make provision for active consultation between the Government and organizations of disabled persons.

71. National plans could include, for instance, the following targets:

(a) Development and dissemination of a plan to implement those articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2/ relevant to children with disabilities (articles 23, 27 and 39), as well as International Labour Organisation Convention 159 concerning the employment of disabled persons;

(b) The reduction by 50 per cent over the next 10 years of the causes of avoidable impairment that leads to disability. The precise means are set out in the World Health Organization (WHO) global targets and in the IMPACT programme of the United Nations Development Programme;

(c) The assumption of responsibility for the education of all disabled children by national and local education authorities, with the support of other departments such as health, social welfare and labour;

(d) A review of school curricula, buildings and equipment to ensure that these are accessible to all students with disabilities;

(e) An annual increase of at least 10 per cent in the number of disabled children attending school;

(f) A step-by-step increase in the time allocated to disability issues in the initial and post-qualification training of teachers, medical doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers and other professionals in the field;

(g) The enactment of legislation to implement the United Nations guidelines for barrier-free design;

(h) The development and implementation of pilot projects generating income and self-employment for disabled persons;

(i) The extension to at least one third of rural areas by the year 2000 of community-based rehabilitation, integrated rehabilitation services with adequate referral systems in the social setting in which the person feels that he or she belongs, leading to independence and autonomy;

(j) By the year 2000, the establishment of "independent living" centres, programmes and organizations of disabled persons, which foster equal participation in the community and the exercise of self-determination by disabled persons, leading to their increased empowerment;

(k) Within five years, the development of comprehensive legislation to ensure equal opportunities for disabled persons in areas such as education, housing, employment, transportation, and information, including sign-language interpretation, instant captioning, Braille, alternative media and assistive devices;

(l) Special attention devoted to the establishment and enhancement of organizations of disabled persons by 1995.

72. Within five years of the adoption of this report, all Member States should therefore be able to demonstrate significant progress in implementing the World Programme of Action.

2. Regional and international level

73. The same general planning requirements described above should be met by all United Nations organizations, international development agencies and other international bodies responsible for funding and implementation of projects that may have an impact on disabled persons. Procedures of the regional and international consultative process should be developed and implemented. One feasible model might be a forum, consisting of a majority of representatives of organizations of disabled persons, wherein the action plan, developed in consultation with organizations of disabled persons, would be reviewed.

74. International organizations, agencies and bodies, in addition to integrating disabled persons and organizations of disabled persons into their programmes and activities, should include provisions in their programmes for direct assistance to the disabled community of the recipient country.

75. The United Nations Development Programme should be requested to include a section on disability issues in its annual Human Development Report, starting with the next issue.

76. Within five years, all agencies should have revised their plans, planning process and procedures in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements.

77. A high-level ministerial meeting within three years of the adoption of this report would stimulate the political will of States to develop, implement and monitor national plans for the implementation of the World Programme of Action.

78. Since lack of awareness and information about the Decade has been a major drawback, especially in developing countries, an international public-awareness campaign to promote the World Programme of Action such as "Disability Awareness in Action" should be encouraged and supported. The United Nations Department of Public Information should continue to highlight disability issues in its multimedia public information programmes.

E. Monitoring

79. Monitoring of the implementation of the World Programme of Action should be based on close cooperation among organizations of disabled persons and all parties concerned, particularly at the earliest conceptual and planning stages.

80. The findings of the monitoring exercises should be widely publicized.

1. Local and national level

81. Full use should be made of existing implementation and monitoring structures and procedures. These may consist of the following:

(a) Parliament and its standing committees;

(b) National coordinating committees on disability matters or similar bodies;

(c) Ad hoc committees on specific questions;

(d) Judicial systems.

82. The establishment of institutions or functions such as mediators, ombudsmen or commissioners should also facilitate the monitoring process.

83. All national action plans should be reviewed by organizations of disabled persons on an annual basis in partnership with Governments.

2. Regional level

84. Full use should be made of the existing structures and mechanisms by the following means:

(a) Including the monitoring of the status of disabled persons in the field of competence of regional organizations and bodies;

(b) Actively involving organizations of disabled persons in the monitoring procedures.

85. The existing structures and mechanisms could relate to regional organizations such as the following: the Council of Europe (European Social Charter and European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms); the European Economic Community; the Nordic Council; the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Organization of African Unity; the Organization of American States; and the League of Arab States.

3. International level

86. Full use should be made of the following monitoring mechanisms:

(a) Within the programmes of the United Nations system and specialized agencies: the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons; the Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); the WHO "Health for All" targets; the "Education for All" targets of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Environment Programme; the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade; and the 1991 World Summit for Children;

(b) United Nations conventions: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 3/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 3/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; 4/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 2/ International Labour Organisation Conventions 111 and 159 - respectively, the 1960 Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, and the 1983 Convention concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons); the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education; and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted at Geneva in 1951 by a United Nations conference convened under General Assembly resolution 429 (V) of 14 December 1950;

(c) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985).

87. The General Assembly should adopt a rule of interpretation stating that whenever a convention dealing with matters relating to the World Programme of Action does not make a specific reference to disabled persons, such conventions should be interpreted as applicable to them.

88. Within the framework of the inter-agency meetings, ongoing exchange of information and experience, monitoring, consultations and planning of joint field operations and activities should be continued and strengthened.

89. In order to achieve effective monitoring of the implementation of the World Programme of Action, it is necessary to consider the feasibility of establishing an agency, institution or function at the highest level within the United Nations system to coordinate the various monitoring mechanisms.

90. An item to review progress in the implementation of the World Programme of Action should be placed permanently on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Notes

1/ See A/45/470.

2/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

3/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Appendix

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Experts

Moussa Ba (Senegal), Secretary-General, Association sénégalaise pour la sauvegarde des enfants déficients mentaux (Asedeme)

Rosangela Berman-Bieler (Brazil), Chairperson, Centre for Independent Living of Rio de Janeiro - CVI

Henry Enns (Canada), Executive Director, Disabled Peoples' International

Eileen Giron Batres (El Salvador), Executive Director, ACOGIPRI

Moses Masemene (Lesotho), Chairman, Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled

Carmen Reyes-Zubiaga (Philippines), Project Development Officer

Ann-Marit Saebones (Norway), Mayor of the City of Oslo

Tiina Talvik (Estonia), Head of the Department of Pediatrics, Tartu University, and Vice-President of the Estonian Rehabilitation Organization

Macline Twimukye (Uganda), Programme Officer, National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda

Serge Wourgaft (France), Secretary-General, World Veteran Federation

Liu Xiaocheng (China), Vice-Chairman, China Disabled Persons' Federation

United Nations Secretariat

Department of Public Information, United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat), United Nations Office at Vienna

United Nations bodies

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization

Non-governmental organizations

Category II: Disabled Peoples' International, International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap, Rehabilitation International, World Federation of the Deaf

Canadian Society for the International Classification of Impairments and Disabilities, Community of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped, Disabled Peoples' International Human Rights Committee, Disabled Peoples'

International Liaison Office at Vienna, Disabled Peoples' International Women's Committee, Disabled Women's Network of Canada, Downtown Handicapped Association, Gallaudet University for the Deaf, Independent Living, International Council on Disability, Japan Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons, Pan-African Blind Union, Polio-, Trafik-og Ulykkesskadede, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Rehabilitation Coordination, India, Richmond Fellowship International, Southern African Federation of the Disabled, The Francophone Committee of Disabled Peoples' International, West African Association of Disabled Persons.